

I M P U L S E

LE BULLETIN D'INFORMATION DE L'ASSOCIATION MONTRÉLAISE DE SCIENCE-FICTION ET DE FANTASTIQUE, L'AMonSFF

April / Avril 2018 (Vol. 22, No./N° 4)

NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND**Saturday, April 14****12:00PM-5:00PM****St-François Room (second floor)
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal***MEETING THEME: Wear a T-shirt, hat, or underwear, bearing the logo of your favourite superhero!***PROGRAMME****12:00PM-1:45PM****SATURDAY SCI-FI CINEMA MATINÉE:**

As we're talking superheroes this month, folk will be asked to pick for review one of five superhero movies on offer!

1:45PM-2:15PM**THE APPEAL OF THE SUPERHERO:**

A quick discussion of superheroes, asking why we are attracted to and fascinated by them? Why do we need a world, even an imaginary one, with superheroes? Or do we?

2:15PM-2:45PM**MID-MEETING BREAK:** Fund-raising raffle, brief discussion of club business**2:45PM-3:45PM****MARVEL VS. DC:** We compare Marvel and DC's many screen adaptations and debate their merits, good and bad.**3:45PM-4:45PM****CAPE AND MASKS: AMERICAN****SUPERHERO COMICS ART:** Presentation highlighting some of the notable artists of American superhero comics.**Next Month's Meeting:****Saturday, May 26***UFOs in UFOlogy and on screen***MARCH MonSFFA MEETING WELCOMES GUEST SPEAKERS**

MonSFFA's March 10 meeting welcomed two special guests on the topic of women in SF/F. Multi-award-winning SF/F author Jo Walton and social activist and a writer new to the Genre, Su Sokol, took their seats at the dais before a packed room.

Following an introductory video presentation briefly outlining the history of, and biases faced by pioneering women SF/F writers and early female stars of the Genre, moderator Keith Braithwaite opened the discussion by asking of the guests what drew them to the Genre to begin with, and who they thought were the female equivalents of SF/F's so-called "Big Three"—Asimov, Bradbury, and Clarke, along with Heinlein and other of the Genre's best known male writers?

It was immediately noted that these male writers are dead and no longer selling! Many of the best-selling and award-winning Genre writers today, in fact, are women. So has gender equality been achieved, then? What of the instances of sexism endured by the precursors of today's stable of very talented and capable female science fiction and fantasy writers? Do such instances continue to occur, today?

Things are better than they were, to be sure, but there's still a ways to go. Gay and transgendered issues reflected in some of modern sci-fi are seeing more push-back of late than are the old battles fought by earlier generations of women SF/F writers trying to break into the field. This brought up the recent controversies surrounding the Hugo nominations and the politically-charged arguments advanced by such groups as the "Sad Puppies," who yearn for the square-jawed science fiction of old and feel that those kinds of stories are being overlooked by a cabal of politically correct writers and activist fans who are supposedly asserting a leftist agenda.

Members of the audience were invited to chime in with their thoughts and questions.

DOES YOUR NAME APPEAR BELOW? CHECK THIS SPACE TO KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE*The Annual Membership Fees of the Following Club Members are...***Overdue:**

BENNETT, Paul
DUROCHER, Marc
GLOVER, Wayne
HAMMOCK, Christopher
HICKEY, Mark
McCULLOGH, Brian
MOIR, L. E.
NOVO, Alice
PICARD, Shawn
RUFIANGE, Yolande
WALLING, Evelyn
WALLING, René

Due This Month, April:

NOVO, Fernando

Due Next Month, May:

BROWN, Lindsay
BURAKOFF, Mark
REDMOND, Isis
SICHEL, Danny

Standard membership is only \$25 annually. We offer a family rate of \$40. Add \$10 to either of these to enjoy our premium "Platinum" membership level. Please complete the form below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to "MonSFFA"), and mail to:

MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
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Thank you for your patronage

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

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Complétez lisiblement. Découpez le coupon et postez tel qu'indiqué.

NAME/NOM: _____ AGE/ÂGE: _____ TEL./TEL.: _____ - _____ - _____

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: _____
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Touched upon, too, was the then-common practise of women writers using gender non-specific pen names—C. L. Moore, C. J. Cherryh, J. K. Rowling—to mask their femininity because, they were apparently told, sales would suffer if the author of a sci-fi piece was known to be a woman! Su read aloud Robert Silverberg's humble admission of error regarding the gender of James Tiptree, Jr., who, it turned out, was a woman! Alice Bradley Sheldon wrote under the pseudonym James Tiptree, Jr. Silverberg had previously been confident, in print no less, that *of course* Tiptree, Jr. was a man, and that you'd have to be balmy to think otherwise! Jo clarified on the story regarding Cherryh, who it goes was cautioned by her first editor that she should change her surname because it sounded too much like that of a romance writer. But there actually was such a writer named Cherry, Jo explained, so Carolyn Janice Cherry added the "h" to her surname so as to differentiate herself from that other writer.

Our guests also illuminated the group on the *craft* of writing, touching on what influences their work, on building a realistic character, the ins and outs of the publishing business, and such.

The discussion closed with Jo and Su speaking of their latest projects, and signing a few books for enthusiastic fans. MonSFFA thanks them both for taking the time to share their thoughts with our membership.

The second half of the meeting saw an open discussion comparing two new TV shows, Star Trek: Discovery and the Trek parody The Orville.

Keith again moderated, joined at the dais by Francois Menard, Paula Dufour, Leslie Perryon, and Joe Aspler. Most found that, while not quite living up to what they promised, the shows were nonetheless entertaining. The panel and audience together dissected the just-completed first seasons of each show.

Discovery is fairly well written and acted, but relies on old Star Trek tropes like the Federation-Klingon conflict and the Mirror Universe to tell its story, despite the advertised promise of a return to the spirit of the original 1960s series. There was rather little exploring of strange new worlds or seeking out of new life and new civilizations involved! And while The Orville was sold as a send-up of Trek infused with frat-boy humour, it hasn't proven quite as funny as that would suggest. It doesn't seem to know if it wants to be a comedy or a science fiction series, and as such, it's an odd hybrid of both that doesn't quite satisfy as either. It is definitely an homage to TNG, however! And it did get better as the season progressed.

Thanks, again, to our guests, Jo Walton and Su Sokol, and to all of our panelists on this afternoon, as well as to those who helped to plan and run this meeting.

Update: 2018 MonSFFA Meeting Schedule

MonSFFen please take note: our October meeting has seen a date change, from the 13th to the 20th; update your calendars accordingly.

Here, again, is MonSFFA's meeting and events schedule for 2018, updated to reflect the most recent changes:

Sunday, January 14

Saturday, February 10

Saturday, March 10

Saturday, April 14

Saturday, May 26

Sunday, June 10 (Field Trip to Science and Technology Museum, Ottawa)

Sunday, July 22 (Barbecue/Picnic, Parc Angrignon)

Saturday, August 18

Saturday, September 8

Saturday, October 20

Saturday, November 17 (SF/F Used Book Sale)

Saturday evening, December 8 (Christmas Dinner and Party)

Reminder: MonSFFA Meetings Have Moved to Saturdays

We remind the membership that MonSFFA has moved its monthly meetings from Sundays to Saturdays!

We meet, now, in our familiar *former* meeting room of a couple years ago, St-François, located on the second floor.

To date, this shift to Saturdays seems not to have greatly affected meeting attendance, which has been quite robust this year, and for which we are befittingly pleased. That said, we are aware that a few of our members are finding it more difficult to make it to meetings on Saturdays, and we take this opportunity to note again that the club has booked on Sundays, as always, such events as our upcoming June field trip and our July summer barbecue.

We will continue to keep our eye on developments over the coming months and make whatever adjustments might be suitable and possible to best accommodate our members.

Briefly:

► We are saddened by news of the death of our friend, Chris Chartier. Chris was one of Montreal fandom's movers and shakers during the heyday of the 1990s, when there were multiple clubs holding regular meetings and a show or convention running, it seemed, practically every weekend during the summers! Chris founded one of those clubs, Warp 9, and co-founded the Science Fiction Festival. We had many opportunities to work with him on shared projects like the TransWarp Mega-Meetings, to share club members, who were active within both clubs, and to help out with each other's convention ventures, ours ConCept and his the Festival. Chris was just 52, and leaves behind wife Jennifer Brown and their two children, Ryan and Autumn. We offer our sincere condolences to them and the rest of Chris' family. And, we raise our glass to Chris, and toast an "absent friend."

► We also offer our collective sympathies to former MonSFFan Krikor Ajemian, now living in Toronto, who lost his beloved mother, Ida, on March 20. Dr. Ida Cummings specialized in palliative care and was one of the founders of the West Island Palliative Care Residence.

► Fire recently swept through the building housing the Irish Embassy Pub and Grill and this favourite MonSFFA haunt is expected to be closed for months for repairs. The Irish Embassy was a regular post-meeting destination for many club members, and has been our Christmas Dinner and Party locale for several years, now.

► Meanwhile, Librairie Astro (1844 Ste-Catherine, just west of Le Faubourg; Guy/Concordia Metro) is closing, a victim of rising rents and, no doubt, the nightmare of ongoing construction in Montreal! The long-running comics and used books store is holding a "Turn Off the Lights Sale" leading up to the door closing for good at the end of June.

► Su Sokol, who was one of our guest speakers at last month's meeting, is moderating a panel discussion on speculative fiction at the Blue Metropolis Literary Festival on April 29 at 4:00PM. The panel is called The Children of Mary Shelley, admission is free, and for more information, Su sends this link:

<http://prog.tsharp.xyz/en/blue/20/show/455/The%20Children%20of%20Mary%20Shelley>

► The Canadian Mint is releasing a unique, oval-shaped \$20 silver coin that glows in the dark, commemorating a 1967 UFO encounter near Falcon Lake, Manitoba. Cool!

► Lastly, we were thrilled to hear that MonSFFan Isis Redmond has been selected as one of three area candidates chosen to compete in an international talent competition in Las Vegas this summer! She auditioned with the Undiscovered Talent Group and won her spot after a grueling series of workshops and auditions before talent agents from L.A., New York, Toronto and elsewhere. For MonSFFen who may want to help Isis achieve success, a GoFundMe page—using the name "Sisi" because the site would not allow her to use Isis!—has been set up to help defray costs for the trip to Vegas:

https://www.gofundme.com/raising-money-for-single-parents?pc=em_db_co2876_v1&rcid=dee130639c794b58a5c6567fb4daea07

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Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite of behalf of MonSFFA and is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Cathy Palmer-Lister. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following means: In person at a MonSFFA meeting • E-mail: keith1958@live.ca • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse": MonSFFA c/o 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

Impulse est préparée une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est disponible sur le site internet du club grâce à Cathy Palmer-Lister. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club • Courriel: keith1958@live.ca • Boîte vocal: 450-692-8831 • Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de "Impulse": AMonSFF a/s de 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6